

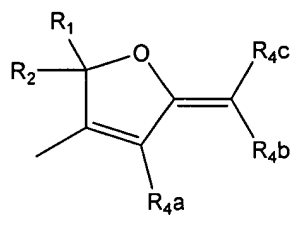
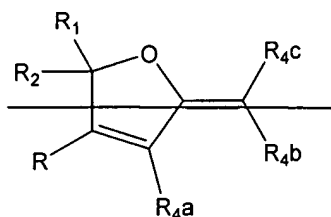
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) A compound, comprising a π -electron donor conjugated to a π -electron acceptor through a ~~π -conjugated polyene~~ bridge, wherein the acceptor comprises a dihydrofuran group, wherein the bridge comprises a fused dithiophene group.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) A compound, comprising a π -electron donor conjugated to a π -electron acceptor through a ~~π -conjugated polyene~~ bridge, wherein the acceptor comprises a ~~dihydrofuran~~ furan group having the structure:



wherein R₁ and R₂ are alkyl groups, R_{4a}, R_{4b}, and R_{4c} are independently selected from F, CN, CF₃, and CF₃SO₂, provided that R_{4a}, R_{4b}, and R_{4c} are not all CN, ~~and R represents the rest of the compound.~~

32. (Original) The compound of Claim 31, wherein R_{4a}, R_{4b}, and R_{4c} are independently selected from F, CF₃, and CF₃SO₂.

33. (Original) The compound of Claim 31, wherein R_{4a} is CN, R_{4b} is CN, and R_{4c} is CF₃SO₂.

34. (Original) The compound of Claim 31, wherein R_{4a} is CF₃SO₂, R_{4b} is CN, and R_{4c} is CF₃SO₂.

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35-64. (Canceled)

65. (New) The compound of Claim 31, wherein R_{4a} , R_{4b} , and R_{4c} are independently selected from CN, CF_3 , and CF_3SO_2 .

66. (New) The compound of Claim 31, wherein R_{4a} is F, R_{4b} is CN, and R_{4c} is F.

67. (New) The compound of Claim 31, wherein R_{4a} is CF_3 , R_{4b} is CN, and R_{4c} is CF_3 .

68. (New) The compound of Claim 31, wherein R_{4a} is CF_3SO_2 , R_{4b} is CF_3SO_2 , and R_{4c} is CF_3SO_2 .

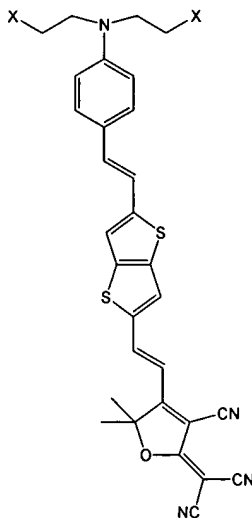
69. (New) The compound of Claim 31, wherein R_{4a} is CN, R_{4b} is CF_3SO_2 , and R_{4c} is CF_3SO_2 .

70. (New) The compounds shown in FIGURE 21.

71. (New) The compound shown in FIGURE 26.

72. (New) The compound shown in FIGURE 47.

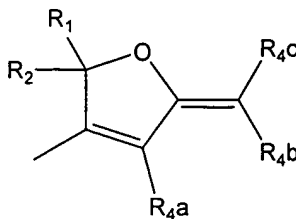
73. (New) A compound having the structure:



wherein X is hydrogen or *t*-butyldimethylsiloxy.

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74. (New) A substituent for a nonlinear optical material having the structure:



wherein R₁ and R₂ are alkyl groups, R_{4a}, R_{4b}, and R_{4c} are independently selected from F, CN, CF₃, and CF₃SO₂, provided that R_{4a}, R_{4b}, and R_{4c} are not all CN.

75. (New) The compound of Claim 74, wherein R_{4a}, R_{4b}, and R_{4c} are independently selected from F, CF₃, and CF₃SO₂.

76. (New) The compound of Claim 74, wherein R_{4a} is CN, R_{4b} is CN, and R_{4c} is CF₃SO₂.

77. (New) The compound of Claim 74, wherein R_{4a} is CF₃SO₂, R_{4b} is CN, and R_{4c} is CF₃SO₂.

78. (New) The compound of Claim 74, wherein R_{4a}, R_{4b}, and R_{4c} are independently selected from CN, CF₃, and CF₃SO₂.

79. (New) The compound of Claim 74, wherein R_{4a} is F, R_{4b} is CN, and R_{4c} is F.

80. (New) The compound of Claim 74, wherein R_{4a} is CF₃, R_{4b} is CN, and R_{4c} is CF₃.

81. (New) The compound of Claim 74, wherein R_{4a} is CF₃SO₂, R_{4b} is CF₃SO₂, and R_{4c} is CF₃SO₂.

82. (New) The compound of Claim 74, wherein R_{4a} is CN, R_{4b} is CF₃SO₂, and R_{4c} is CF₃SO₂.